

REMARKS

Replacement sheets of drawings are submitted herewith.

Claim 1 has been amended to make it clear that the slots are disposed to provide a labyrinthic load path. Support for this is found at page 9 line 12 of the specification and in the drawings.

There is a fundamental difference between the slots of the present invention and those shown in Buder US 2003/0006341. The examiner equates the gaps 20 between the separate supports 17, 18 located in primary reference (US 2003/0006341) with the slots of our claims. Not only are these gaps located between separate support structures, but they also extend around the entire periphery of the vibration isolator. The slots of the present invention on the other hand are located within an integral structure and not between supports that have to be fixed together. Moreover, such slots do not extend around the entire periphery of the device and preferably have an undulating configuration as specified in claim 7. These features produce the following advantageous effects which cannot be obtained obtained by Buder's structure:

- the structure of the invention forms a structural labyrinth for the load path from the inferior interface of surface of revolution to the upper interface;
- the slots are filled with an elastic material such that the elastic material and the material of the rest of the structure form two continuous and complementary labyrinth structures;
- with the above-mentioned features, the structure obtained is a compact structure of reduced weight and dimensions, having a high rigidity (stiffness) and a high capacity of shock absorption.

As noted at the top of page 2 of the present application, distributions having “excessive axial symmetry” (and Buder has total axial symmetry) can result in a loss of attenuation and even a possible amplification thereof at certain frequencies. Budde does not therefore point towards the present invention.

None of the secondary references, remedy this fundamental defect in Buder. Hile (US 2,386,463 essentially discloses a large washer with ridges and valleys in the surface of the elastomeric material. However, the examiner does not seem to be correct in stating that the slot within which this sits is also undulating. In any case, it certainly does not disclose an arrangement of slots to set up labyrinthic load paths. Nor do the slots 19 of Brauss or the slots 55, 54 of Lefol define such paths.

It is therefore submitted that the present application meets the requirements of 35 USC 102 and 103.

In view of the foregoing it is submitted that this application is now in order for allowance and an early action to this end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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